

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2280
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5595

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PGOV PINT PO
SUBJECT: AGRARIAN REFORM TO THE WIRE

REF: (A) LISBON 5560 (DTG 191638Z JUL 77),
(B) LISBON 5566 (DTG 200900Z JUL 77)

SUMMARY: LEGISLAVITE ASSEMBLY COULD VOTE ON GOVERNMENT'S
AGRARIAN REFORM PROPOSAL TONIGHT. NEITHER THE PSD OR CDS
HAS TAKEN A FINAL POSITION ON THE LEGISLATION AS LAST-
MINUTE NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED. THE SOCIALISTS HAVE ALL THE
LINES OUT AND SEVERAL AVENUES FOR SECURING THE NECESSARY
VOTES. END SUMMARY.

1. CUNHAL STANDS DOWN: PRESIDENT EANES MET JULY 19
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WITH PCP SECRETARY-GENERAL ALVARO CUNHAL AND PS
PARLIAMENTARY LEADER SALGADO ZENHA. FOLLOWING HIS
MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, CUNHAL REAFFIRMED PCP'S
OPPOSITION TO THE AGRARIAN REFORM PROPOSAL. IF BILL
PASSED, CUNHAL ADDED COMMUNISTS WOULD NO LONGER HAVE ANY
REASON TO PROP UP PS GOVERNMENT WITH PCP VOTES IN ASSEMBLY.
HE ASSURED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PCP WOULD UNDERTAKE NO

"UNCONSTITUTIONAL ACTS" IF THE LEGISLATION WAS APPROVED. AFTER HIS SEPARATE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, SALGADO ZENHA CALLED FOR ASSEMBLY APPROVAL OF THE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW AND IN A WARNING TO THE OPPOSITION, SAID EACH PARTY WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS POSITION.

2. LAST-MINUTE NEGOTIATIONS: CDS PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL MET JULY 19 WITH PRIME MINISTER SOARES. AS A RESULT OF THEIR MEETING A PS/CDS WORKING GROUP BEGAN LAST-MINUTE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW. A CDS SOURCE SAID SOARES HAD AGREED IN SUBSTANCE TO FREITAS DO AMARAL'S DEMANDS FOR MODIFICATIONS IN THE LAW AND STEPS TOWARD A BROADER POLITICAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CDS AND PSD.

3. WHERE MATTERS STAND: PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE CONTINUED JULY 19 BUT NEITHER THE PSD NOR THE CDS REVEALED THEIR FINAL POSITIONS. SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND CENTER DEMOCRATS HELD INTERNAL PARTY MEETINGS THE MORNING OF JULY 20 TO DECIDE THEIR STANDS ON TONIGHT'S VOTE. SOCIALISTS HAVE THE LINES OF NEGOTIATION OUT AND THEY HAVE SEVERAL LIKELY AVENUES FOR SECURING THE NECESSARY SUPPORT. CARLUCCI

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Message Attributes

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